NEWS ANALYSIS 1-1363 AUGUST 30, 1976
JOHN ALBERT

MOSCOW AND THE BERLIN AGREEMENT

ANNCR: ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY (AUG. 27) OF THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT ON BERLIN, EAST GERMAN ACTIONS AND SOVIET STATEMENTS HAVE AGAIN RAISED THE QUESTION OF RESPECT FOR FREE MOVEMENT TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN. VOA NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

VOICE:
AT THE END OF AUGUST 1971 THE SOVIET UNION AND THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES, BRITAIN, FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES, CONCLUDED EXTREMELY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WITH AN AGREEMENT ON BERLIN. THE AGREEMENT SPELLED OUT CLEARLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY THE RIGHT OF FREE MOVEMENT ACROSS EAST GERMANY FROM WEST GERMANY TO WEST BERLIN AND FROM THAT CITY TO WEST GERMANY. THE AGREEMENT ESPECIALLY DOES NOT PERMIT EAST GERMAN BORDER AUTHORITIES TO QUESTION THE MOTIVES OF WEST GERMAN TRAVELERS GOING TO WEST BERLIN. BUT THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THE EAST GERMANS DID WHEN (AUG. 13) THEY TURNED BACK 13 WEST GERMAN BUSES WITH TRAVELERS WHO WANTED TO PARTICIPATE IN A WEST BERLIN RALLY PROTESTING THE BERLIN WALL.

THE THREE WESTERN POWERS IN A PROTEST TO MOSCOW POINTED OUT THAT THIS ACTION BY THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES CLEARLY VIOLATED THE 1971 FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT ON BERLIN ON WHICH INTER-GERMAN ARRANGEMENTS ARE BASED. THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOW REJECTED THE WESTERN PROTEST AS "UNJUSTIFIED". IN ADDITION, MOSCOW WANTED THE FOUR POWERS TO ISSUE A DECLARATION ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO "CLARIFY" CERTAIN PROVISIONS. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THIS WAS SIMPLY AN ATTEMPT TO SUPPORT THE EAST GERMAN ACTION OR WHETHER MOSCOW IS TRYING TO CHANGE THE AGREEMENT IN ITS FAVOR. BUT RECENTLY SOVIET REACTIONS TO THE ALLEGED MISUSE OF TRANSIT RIGHTS BY WEST GERMANS HAVE COME

MORE QUICKLY THAN THOSE FROM EAST GERMANY, AND THEY HAVE BEEN MORE VIOLENT IN TONE. IT WAS MOSCOW, ALSO, THAT FIRST PROTESTED THE INCLUSION OF WEST BERLINERS AMONG THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTION OF A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. MOSCOW CLAIMED THAT VIOLATED THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT.

IT HAS TO BE RECALLED THAT IT WAS THE BERLIN AGREEMENT THAT THE WESTERN ALLIES HAD MADE A PREREQUISITE FOR CONSENTING TO THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE THE SOVIETS SO ARDENTLY DESIRED. IT WAS ALSO EXPECTED THAT THE BERLIN AGREEMENT WOULD BE THE FORERUNNER OF A WHOLE SERIES OF MUTUAL ACTIONS TO RELAX TENSIONS IN EUROPE.

IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT MOSCOW WITH ITS PRESENT CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF EAST GERMAN ACTIONS IN BORDER INCIDENTS IS TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE WEST GERMAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HOWEVER, ITS ATTITUDE HAS HAD SUCH AN EFFECT. THE WEST GERMAN OPPOSITION PARTY, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, ADVOCATES A STRONGER STAND ON THESE ISSUES THAN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALISTS AND FREE DEMOCRATS HAS BEEN WILLING TO TAKE. THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT, THUS FAR, HAS RESTRICTED ITSELF TO DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE AND HAS RESISTED SUGGESTIONS THAT IT THREATEN EAST GERMANY WITH TRADE AND CREDIT REPRISALS.

IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT RECENT SHOOTING INCIDENTS ON EAST GERMANY'S BORDER DO NOT INDICATE FEARS OF ENCROACHMENT FROM THE OUTSIDE. WHAT THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES ARE INCREASINGLY WORRIED ABOUT IS THE RISING TENDENCY OF THEIR PEOPLE TO SEEK ESCAPE FROM THEIR REGIME, THROUGH BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL EMIGRATION. SINCE THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE, THE REQUESTS FOR EXIT PERMITS HAVE DRASTICALLY INCREASED. SO HAVE THE ATTEMPTS TO CROSS THE BORDER WITHOUT PERMISSION. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES NEED THE INCREASED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONTACTS

WITH WEST GERMANY, AND WESTERN EUROPE AS A WHOLE. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ARE TRYING TO ISOLATE THEIR PEOPLE FROM THE ALMOST UNAVOIDABLE CONSEQUENCES OF INCREASED CONTACTS WITH THE WEST. THE RECENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST WEST GERMANY IS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THIS POLICY OF KEEPING WESTERN INFLUENCES TO THE MINIMUM. BUT THE RESULTS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN POOR, INDEED.

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